

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Wildlife Conservation is to conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats and provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

Core Services

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to: (1) protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state.

- **Wildlife Management and Research:** Wildlife management involves a wide variety of biological and administrative activities. Management biologists, primarily working out of area offices, collect information on wildlife population sizes, trends, productivity, and levels of mortality from hunting and natural causes. The division's research program focuses on collecting data on primary species with direct management application.

- **Species Survey and Inventory:** Field work within the 26 Game Management Units (GMU) to assess species populations, administer hunts, monitor harvest levels, and prepare study data for the regulatory process. Management biologists concentrate efforts toward big game and furbearer species. Biological staff also specialize on migratory bird and waterfowl issues in cooperation with federal agencies. Specific species are noted below:

• Big Game	moose	caribou	black bear	brown bear
	deer	sheep	mt goat	elk
	bison	musk ox		
• Furbearers:	wolf	wolverine	fox	lynx
	marten	beaver		
• Waterfowl	ducks	geese	cranes	
• Small Game	ptarmigan	grouse	hares	

- **Research:** Multi-year field studies including data collection and analysis related to game, marine mammals, and waterfowl species. Studies underway during FY06 and 07 include the following study titles:
 - ⌚ Population dynamics of moose in Alaska: effects of nutrition, predation, and harvest
 - ⌚ Analysis of the nitrogen budget of moose in Unit 13A, Nelchina Basin, and Unit 15, Kenai Peninsula
 - ⌚ Nutrition influences on moose reproduction
 - ⌚ Evaluation of moose-habitat relationships in Southeast Alaska
 - ⌚ Response of moose and their predators to wolf reduction and short-term bear removal in a portion of Unit 19D
 - ⌚ Evaluation and testing of techniques for ungulate management and Moose Research Center operations
 - ⌚ Identification of factors affecting calf production, calf, survival, and survival of female adult moose in Unit 13
 - ⌚ Habitat use and survivorship of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska: a regional meta-analysis and synthesis
 - ⌚ Assessing wild land fire impacts on the nutritional performance and distribution of caribou within Alaska's boreal forest ecosystems
 - ⌚ Population dynamics of Interior and Southwest Alaska caribou herds
 - ⌚ Effect of oil field development on calf production and survival in the Central Arctic Caribou Herd
 - ⌚ Habitat use, foraging behavior, and nutritional ecology of Nelchina caribou
 - ⌚ Monitoring of 40-Mile ungulates and wolves following wolf sterilization and translocation
 - ⌚ Brown bear data analysis and manuscript preparation

- ⌚ Abundance, spatial relationships, and trans-boundary movements of brown bears on the mainland coast of Southeast Alaska
 - ⌚ Identifying and evaluating techniques for wildlife management in interior Alaska
 - ⌚ Effects of snowshoe hare population cycles on demography of Dall sheep and their predators
 - ⌚ Coarse-scale surveys of wolverine distribution and habitat in Interior Alaska
 - ⌚ Habitat assessment of potential wood bison relocation sites in Alaska
 - ⌚ Preparation of a manuscript on estimating predation rates by wolves during winter with periodic sampling
 - ⌚ Population ecology and special dynamics of wolves related to prey availability and human activity in the Nelchina Basin
 - ⌚ Development and testing of breakaway snares
 - ⌚ Wildlife health and disease surveillance in Alaska
 - ⌚ Development of GIS techniques for the collection, modeling, and analysis of wildlife movement data and spatial dynamics in Unit 13
 - ⌚ Stellar Sea Lion Recovery studies
 - ⌚ Investigations into Harbor Seals in Alaska
 - ⌚ Ice Seal Bio-Monitoring in the Bering & Chukchi Region
 - ⌚ Western Beaufort Sea: Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales
- **Public and Hunter Information Services:** Management biologists serve as a point of contact with the public on wildlife management issues, assess public interests and needs, sell hunting and trapping licenses, issue harvest tags and permits, make public presentations, deal with nuisance and injured wildlife. Division personnel are located in the following Alaskan communities, depicted in this table through the regional management structure used by the Division:

<u>Southeast:</u> <u>Region I</u>	<u>Southcentral:</u> <u>Region II</u>	<u>Interior:</u> <u>Region III</u>	<u>Western:</u> <u>Region V</u>
Douglas	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Nome
Petersburg	Palmer	Delta Junction	Barrow
Sitka	Glennallen	Tok	Kotzebue
Ketchikan	Soldotna	McGrath	Bethel
	Homer	Galena	
	Cordova	Ft. Yukon	
	Dillingham		
	Kodiak		
	King Salmon		

- **Hunter Education:** Provide education and information to hunters to increase hunter safety and knowledge, and decrease the wounding loss of game. A formal system of hunter education classes qualifies successful students to hunt in areas where hunter education certification is required. Specialized hunter education courses and clinics are arranged for archery and muzzle-loading firearms. Participants in these courses become eligible to participate in hunts restricted to these types of equipment. The program constantly recruits volunteers who serve as instructors in many parts of the state.
- **Regulatory Process:** The division's role is to provide the Board of Game with biological information, offer suggested regulatory changes based on available information, and provide testimony, analysis and recommendations on proposed changes offered by individuals and organizations. The division obtains its biological information through its annual survey and inventory efforts on game species by GMU. The division functions independently of the board and does not oversee nor control the regulatory process. The board is responsible for establishing hunting and trapping seasons, setting harvest limits, and allocating wildlife harvests among users. During FY08, Board of Game meetings are planned for the following two regions; a) Arctic and Western region for the fall 2007 (Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A); and b) Interior for spring 2008 (Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C).
- **Information Management:** The division manages a central repository for big game and furbearer harvest information. This service administers and conducts the lottery for all Drawing Permit hunts and administers the Tier II Subsistence Permit hunt scoring and allocation system. Data processing support for division services also includes GIS-based data analysis and digital mapping within a Game Management Unit.

- **State Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries:** The division provides on the ground management in 32 state wildlife refuges, critical habitat areas, and wildlife sanctuaries for the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use. The notable special areas overseen by the division include:
 - McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge
 - Anchorage Coastal State Wildlife Refuge
 - Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
 - Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary (Pack Creek)
 - Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
 - Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
 - Palmer Hay Flats
 - Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area (Wolverine Creek)

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of BOG population targets attained.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Number of new threatened or endangered species designations.</p>	<p>A1: Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of planned surveys completed.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.</p> <p>A2: Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of federal regional council meetings that affect state management.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of recommendations adopted.</p> <p>A3: Maintain wildlife habitat on state lands capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of</p>

	<p>wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Develop management plans for an increase percentage of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of areas with existing plans or plans in process of development.</p> <p>A4: Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> % change in ungulate survival.</p> <p>A5: Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> % increase in the number of adult viewers identified in the 5-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey.</p> <p>A6: Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase by 5% the number of hunter education clinics offered.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage change in the number of hunter education clinics offered.</p>
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Conduct population and trend count surveys on wildlife populations.
- Conduct Game Management Unit area and/or species-specific research.
- Conduct harvest surveys on wildlife populations.
- Review proposals from the public pertaining to wildlife in regards to the regulatory process.
- Collect, analyze, and provide information regarding wildlife to regulatory bodies.
- Develop and present recommendations to the Board of Game.
- Participate in regulatory sessions with the Board of Game.
- Devise management strategies and plans regarding wildlife habitat.
- Conduct field assessments regarding wildlife habitat.
- Assign staff to heavily used areas to protect resources and/or public safety.
- Participate in interdisciplinary permit review teams regarding wildlife habitat.
- Offer biological expertise regarding wildlife habitat.
- Conduct prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Carry out habitat scarification/crushing.
- Build and install nesting structures.
- Conduct recruitment and survival surveys on ungulate populations.
- Work with the Administration and Legislature to adopt an improved compensation package for biologists comparable to that for federal biologists.
- Develop and enhance marketing strategies for the sale of hunting licenses.
- Conduct hunter / trapper / viewer clinics for the general public.
- Enhance web-based information systems and other publications regarding wildlife resources and opportunities.
- Use the media to promote opportunities for wildlife related activities.
- Sponsor lecture series and other educational forums for the public.
- Development of brochures, news articles and other publications.
- Conduct teacher trainings on the use of outdoor and wildlife curricula.
- Sponsor outdoor skill clinics.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$36,513,200

Personnel:

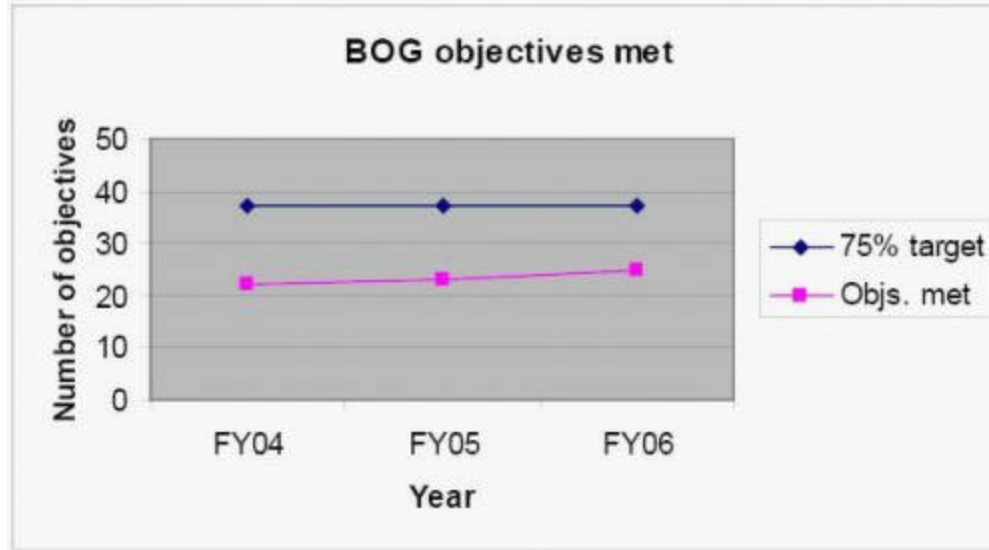
Full time	169
Part time	58
Total	227

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

Target #1: Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).

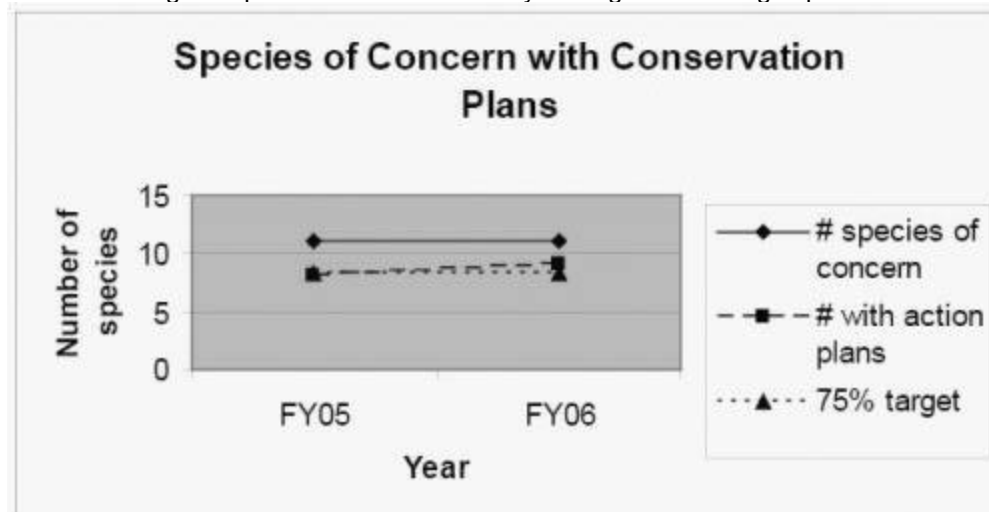
Measure #1: Percentage of BOG population targets attained.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Board of Game has set population objectives for selected ungulate populations that it has determined are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use. Achieving the population objective means that sufficient animals exist in that population to meet the highest levels of hunter demand. For FY06, the division met 25 BOG population objectives out of a total of 50 objectives set for deer, caribou and moose. (75% target is 38 objectives met.) This is 2 more objectives met than were met in FY05. Additional analysis is needed to determine if objectives have been met for 1 other population. Some of the population objectives may not be possible to meet given the habitat capacity that can be achieved in some areas. Population objectives for those areas should be reviewed by the Board of Game and possibly revised.

Target #2: Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.

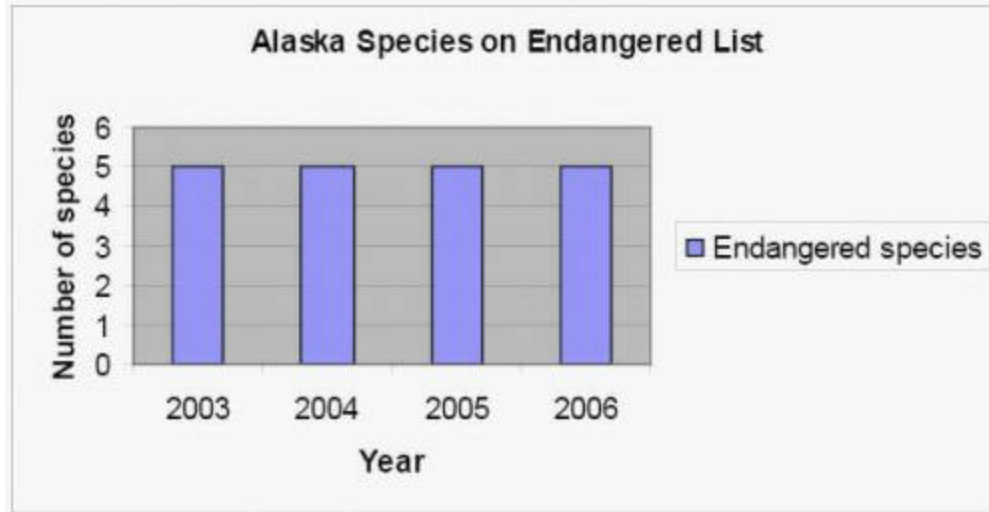
Measure #2: Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.



Analysis of results and challenges: There are 11 wildlife species of special concern under primary or shared division management. Conservation action plans are in place for 9 (82%) of these species, including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon and Kenai brown bear. Two species for which a plan has not been prepared are the Gray-cheeked thrush and Aleutian Canada goose. In the state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), completed during FY06, both species are on the nominee list for species of special concern. However, populations of the Aleutian Canada goose have recovered markedly in recent years and it has been removed from other lists of endangered species. The State of Alaska Species of Special Concern list was last revised in 1998. Revision of that list is expected to occur within the next year.

Target #3: No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

Measure #3: Number of new threatened or endangered species designations.

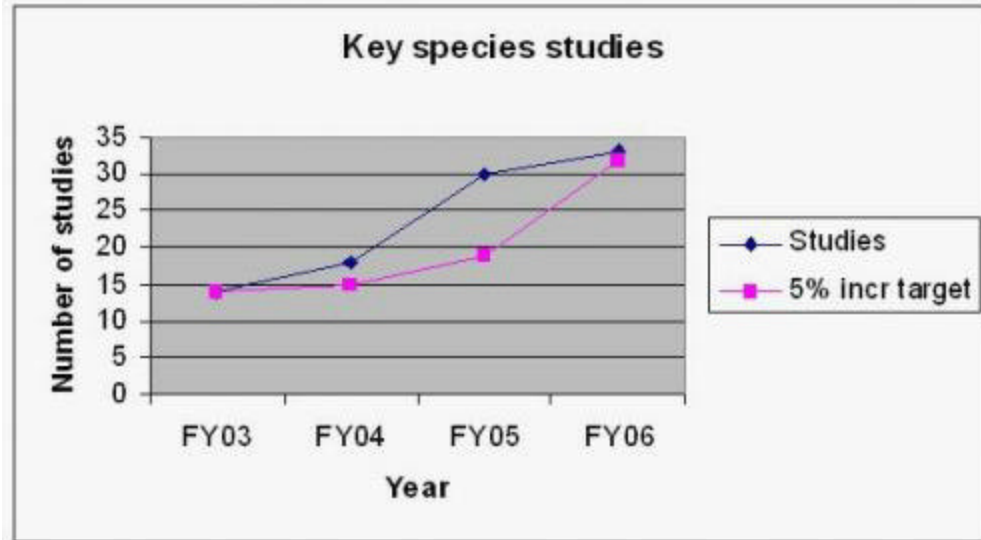


Analysis of results and challenges: The state endangered species list includes the Eskimo curlew, short-tailed albatross, humpback whale, right whale, and blue whale. There has been no change in the state endangered species list since 1993 and no new species were added to federal lists in FY06.

A1: Strategy - Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.

Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.

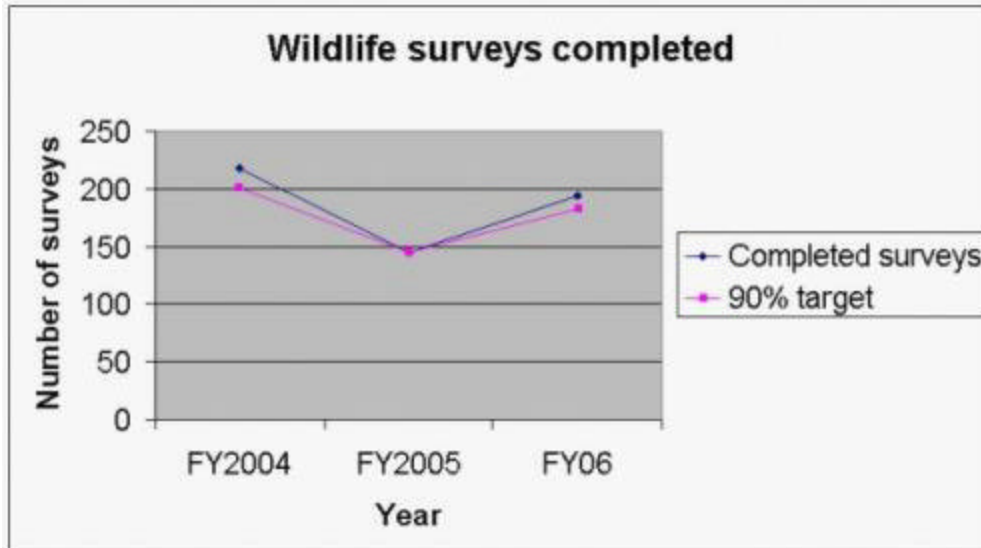
Measure #1: Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: In FY06, 29 key species projects were continued and 4 were initiated for a total of 33. This represents a 10% increase over FY05's 30 projects, largely due to the continued availability of federal State Wildlife Grant funds.

Target #2: Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).

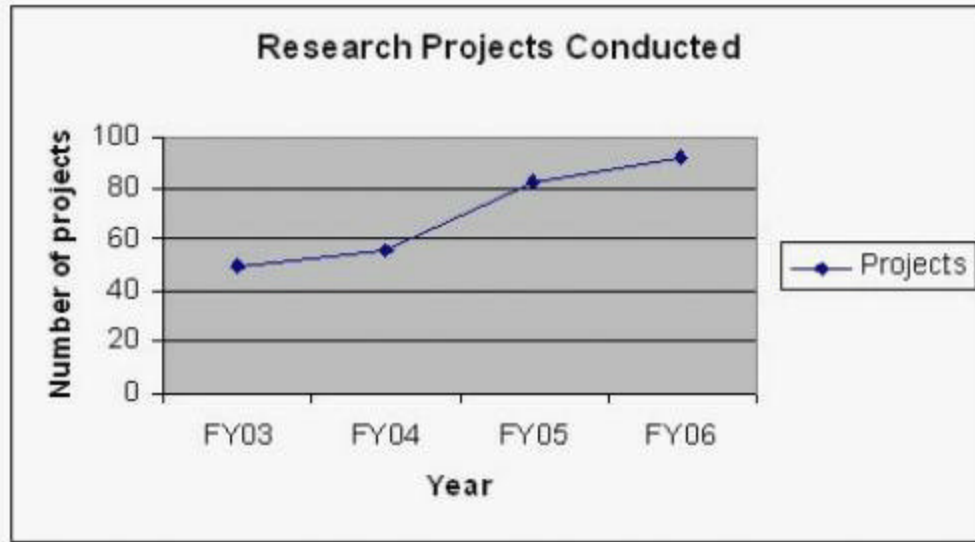
Measure #2: Percentage of planned surveys completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: During FY06, the division completed 96% of planned wildlife surveys (194 of 203) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor. Of those not completed, 8 were due to budget or personnel constraints, 1 was due to logistical problems. Budget constraints also contributed to fewer surveys on lower priority species being planned for the year. Cost increases have exceeded increases in available funds both for personnel and for aviation fuel which has increased the costs of charter flights and operating department aircraft.

Target #3: Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals.

Measure #3: Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.

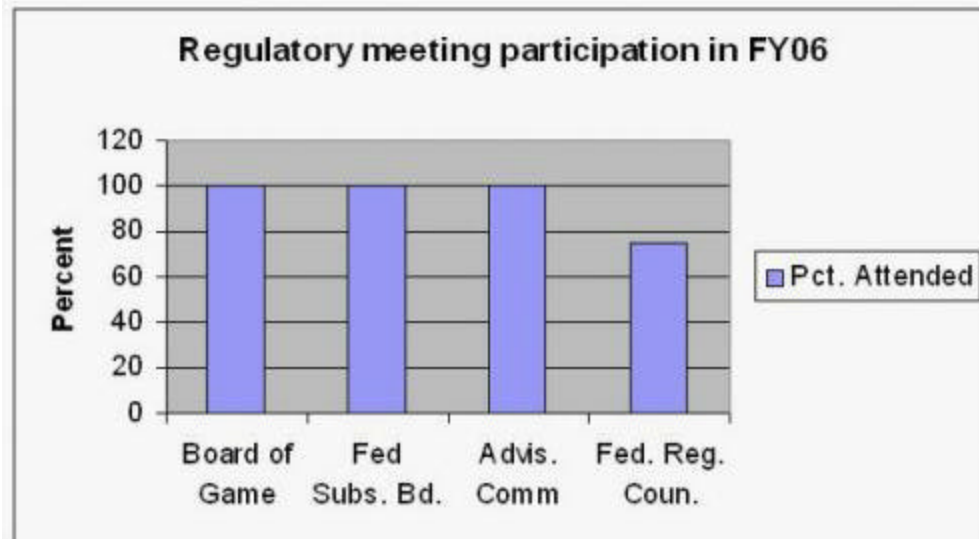


Analysis of results and challenges: During FY06, 35 big game research projects, 20 marine mammal program research projects, 4 waterfowl/game bird, and 14 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 73 division research projects. (19 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) The previous year, FY05, 27 big game, 4 waterfowl, 20 marine mammal, and 15 nongame research projects were conducted (16 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) for a total of 66 division research projects. The number of FY06 projects conducted by the division is 110% of those conducted the prior year.

A2: Strategy - Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.

Target #1: Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of federal regional council meetings that affect state management.

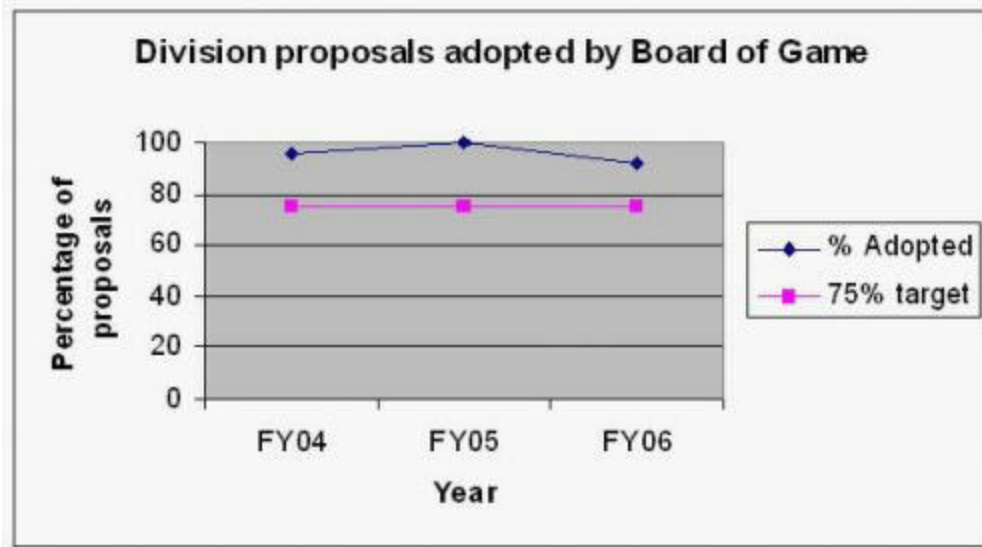
Measure #1: Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.



Analysis of results and challenges: For FY06, division staff actively participated in all BOG meetings, all state advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, all federal subsistence board meetings that dealt with wildlife issues, and approximately 75% of federal regional council meetings.

Target #2: Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.

Measure #2: Percentage of recommendations adopted.



Analysis of results and challenges: During the fall 2005 through spring 2006 meetings, a combined total of 66 division proposals were submitted; 61 were adopted or amended and adopted by the Board of Game for a 92% adoption rate. Thus for Fiscal Year 2006, the target was achieved. The total includes 23 reauthorizations of cow moose hunts which require the agreement of local Fish and Game Advisory committees. 21 reauthorizations were adopted and 2 were not.

A3: Strategy - Maintain wildlife habitat on state lands capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.

Target #1: Develop management plans for an increase percentage of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.

Measure #1: Percentage of areas with existing plans or plans in process of development.



Analysis of results and challenges: Division of Wildlife Conservation staff play only a supporting role in special area plan development. Primary responsibility rests with the Habitat section of Sport Fish Division. Through

FY06, management plans have been completed for 14 of the 32 state critical habitat areas, game refuges and sanctuaries; in addition, one area is managed under an interim plan, and another, the Chilkat River Critical Habitat Area is managed as part of the Chilkoot State Park Eagle Preserve. During FY05 a management plan for Izembek State Game Refuge was drafted, but was not finalized in FY06 as planned because the existing plan for McNeil River State Game Sanctuary needed to be revised and received a higher priority. Following completion of the Izembek plan, an overarching plan for the 5 critical habitat areas in Bristol Bay will be developed. In the interim for the areas without plans, management concerns are addressed by local area biologists and regional staff.

A4: Strategy - Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Target #1: Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.

Measure #1: % change in ungulate survival.

Intensive Mgt. Area	2% population increase - FY05	2% population increase - FY06
GMU 13	yes	yes
GMU 16B	Insuff. data	Insuff. data
GMU 19A	Insuff. data	Insuff. data
GMU 19D	yes	yes
GMU 20E/12	Insuff. data	no

Analysis of results and challenges: Five Intensive Management Programs (IMPs) have been implemented by the division – in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 16B, 19A, 19D, 20E/12. There was a greater than 2% increase in the GMU 13 moose population in FY06 over the prior year. The Nelchina caribou herd in this unit is at the upper end of population objectives so increase in population will be taken as harvest. Permit numbers during the fall 2005 hunting season doubled, from 2000 the previous year to 4000. Based upon survival among radiocollared animals and on population estimates in the Experimental Micro Management Area (EMMA) in FY06, the moose population in Unit 19D east also likely increased by more than 2% over the previous year. In Units 16B, and 19A, because predator control efforts have been conducted for only short time, no effects have been detected yet in the moose population. Therefore, there is insufficient information to know how the moose population changed in FY06. In Units 20E/12, moose population estimates in a portion of the area indicate no change between FY05 and FY06.

A5: Strategy - Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.

Target #1: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.

Measure #1: Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.



Analysis of results and challenges: Over the past three calendar years the sale of hunting and trapping licenses has ranged from 139,539 in 2003 to 134,562 in 2004 to 137,747 in 2005 (most recent year available). These totals include resident, nonresident and military licenses. The three year running average for this period of time is 137,283. License sales appear to be rebounding from a low in 2004. One incentive for hunters to buy licenses is confidence that game populations are abundant and that there are good opportunities to hunt and harvest game.

Target #2: Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.

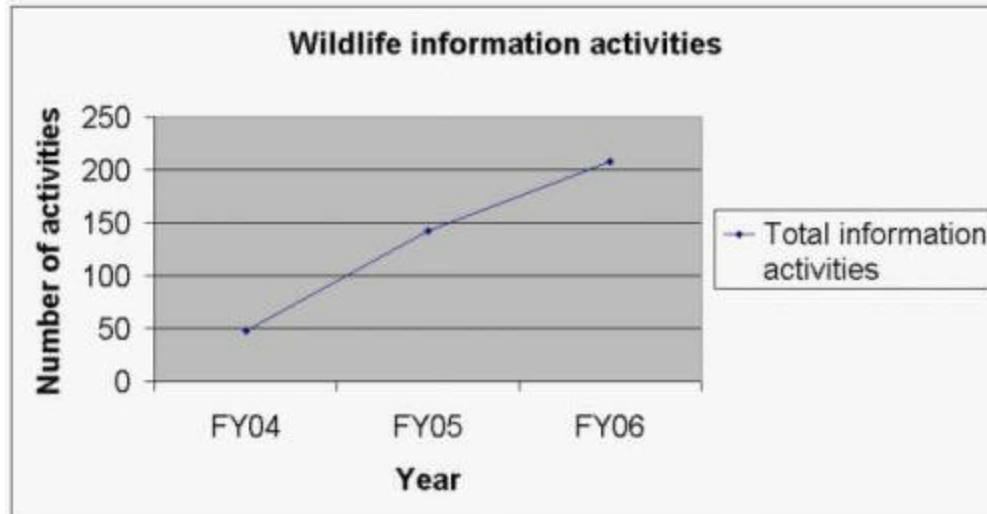
Measure #2: % increase in the number of adult viewers identified in the 5-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey.

Analysis of results and challenges: We are unable to evaluate this target at this time. The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation is completed every five years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last completed this survey in 2001. The next opportunity for obtaining such wildlife viewing information will occur in 2006 with data available early in 2007.

A6: Strategy - Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.

Target #1: Increase annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

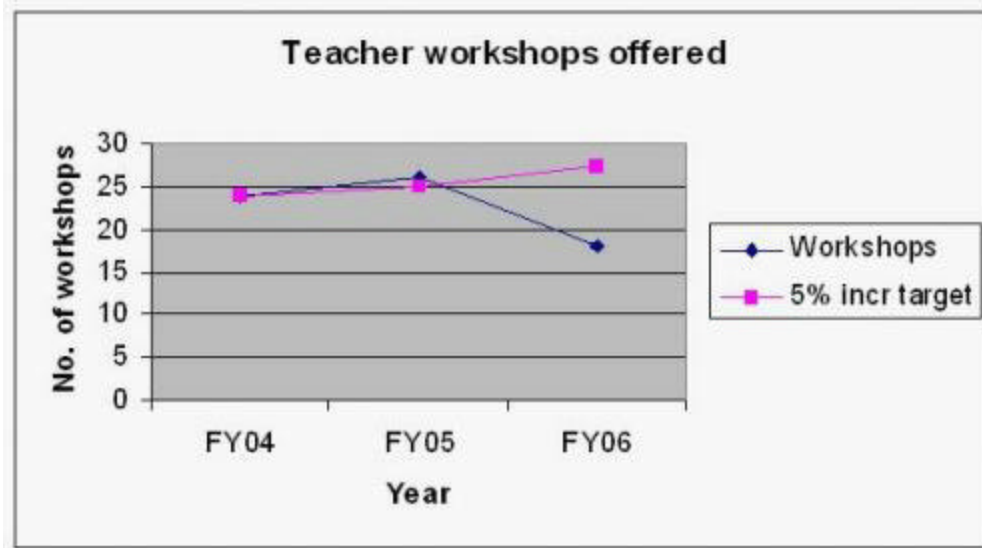
Measure #1: Change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.



Analysis of results and challenges: Wildlife-related lectures and workshops to the general public and student groups increased dramatically from 22 in FY05 to 88 in FY06. In FY06 there were 56 separate media presentations and articles completed by Wildlife Education, up from 30 the previous year. Over this same time period, the total number of electronic and broadcast media opportunities dealing with wildlife and wildlife management, including weekly radio spots (50), frequent newspaper articles (56), and guest presentations on radio or TV shows (14) remained the same (120). It is difficult to quantify Division of Wildlife Conservation web page content, however posted information increased substantially as new management and research reports, and harvest information were posted for public access. Our online magazine, Alaska Wildlife news, features about seven articles per month on Alaska wildlife and management, (about 56 to date this year) and receives at least ten thousand visitors each month.

Target #2: Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.

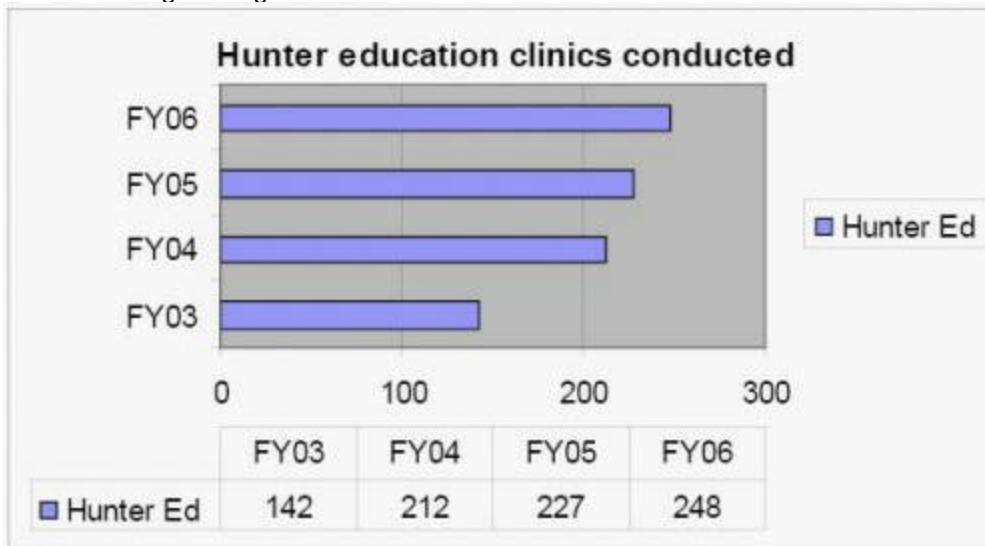
Measure #2: Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.



Analysis of results and challenges: In FY05, 26 such workshops were presented to 642 teachers. In FY06 we offered 18 workshops to 244 teachers. The decline is due to the resignation in midyear of the program coordinator and the continued vacancy in that position. During FY07, current staff is expected to continue to conduct about 20 workshops. In June 2007 we will be training additional facilitators to conduct teacher training workshops. This will increase our ability to offer workshops and so we expect a significant increase in the number of workshops and teachers trained in FY08.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of hunter education clinics offered.

Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of hunter education clinics offered.



Analysis of results and challenges: The percentage of hunter education clinics offered by the division increased over the previous year by 33%, 7%, and 8% respectively in FY04, FY05, and FY06, exceeding the 5% annual increase goal. The division is increasing the number of clinics it offers through use of the mobile training unit which travels to communities on the road system and to Southeast Alaska on the marine highway system. The division is also training more instructors in remote offroad communities to run clinics in the absence of division hunter education staff. The division is offering more specialized clinics (archery, muzzleloader, bear

hunting, etc.) to meet mandatory hunter training requirements that are in regulation and to appeal to hunters with specialized interests. Hunter education course schedules are posted on-line in the larger communities so that the public can plan ahead to attend the clinic most convenient for them. The division is also working to implement an on-line hunter education course to provide training to those who can't attend normal clinics.

Key RDU Challenges

Major policy issues face the Division of Wildlife Conservation for FY08. These include: (1) meeting an increased demand for hunting opportunities from the public; (2) maintaining sound scientific standards for wildlife management; (3) managing for the statutory state subsistence preference and all other uses while addressing Alaskan concerns about federal intervention into management of resident wildlife for subsistence on federal lands; (4) protecting the State's interests in the federal designation of species as Threatened or Endangered; and (5) meeting demands of the public for a strong conservation education program, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and management of non-hunted species.

Financial issues include a continued declining trend in revenue and fees into the Fish & Game Fund.

Game Management and Hunting Opportunities

Predation by wolves and bears has a major impact on many wildlife populations in Alaska. The division will continue to work with the Board of Game to develop biologically sound and cost effective programs to regulate predator populations where necessary to improve the status of important ungulate herds.

Under A.S. 16.05.255, the Board of Game is charged with carrying out intensive management programs for identified big game populations failing to meet regulatory management objectives. In five areas, predator management is being used as a tool to boost the harvestable surpluses of moose and caribou populations and provide increased hunting opportunities for Alaskans. These programs are targeted at subunits within Game Management Units 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20. The department has allocated all available funds to supporting studies and currently lacks resources to document population parameters in order to support, sustain and defend new intensive management programs in the face of ongoing opposition and litigation. Without these programs, hunting opportunities will continue to be severely reduced.

The division's ability to maintain healthy populations of wildlife is directly related to the ability of Alaska's land and water resources to support these populations. Loss or serious alteration of important wildlife habitats can have direct and long-term economic impacts on the state by reducing the sustainable yield of these renewable resources. Because of increasing human populations and the need for an expanded and more diversified economy, the division must work closely with development interests and other agencies to effectively mitigate the effects of development through active management programs to ensure adequate protection of wildlife values and continued opportunities for public use of these resources. The process depends on the division's ability to provide the latest information, techniques, and research findings to all parties involved in a rapid and efficient manner.

Protect State Interests in the Designation and Management of Endangered Species

The listing of species as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act can have great adverse economic impacts on Alaska. Division programs have been designed to provide for population recovery of listed species as well as preventing the need for additional listings. The division will continue to collect information on several species in an effort to ensure species are not unnecessarily listed under the federal act.

Dual Management

The federal assertion of management authorities for subsistence hunting on federal lands continues to have major impacts on the management of wildlife in Alaska. The division continues to work to address resource management and allocation conflicts between state and federal managers.

Funding Sources

There continues to be a need to address funding for the division's programs. Revenues into the Fish and Game Fund are derived from the sale of hunting and trapping licenses to residents and non-residents, special permits, tag fees, sanctuary access permits, shooting range fees, waterfowl stamps and limited edition prints, and educational publications and videos. Revenue generated from these sources has decreased from FY01 through FY06. Revenue received during FY06 was 4.8% less than the amount received in FY01.

Funding from the Investment Loss Trust Fund (ILTF) was added to the division's budget during legislative committee hearings during the FY07 budget process. This additional funding source helps offset declining revenue into the Fish &

Game Fund and diversifies the funding base for division operations. For FY08, the funding source definition requires changing to the General Fund. The ILTF was identified as a one-time funding source for FY07 only.

Contributions to the day-to-day work of Wildlife Conservation from the General Fund are appropriate as the mission of the division is to manage and conserve wildlife for the people of the state, including those who consume the resource and those who do not. During the 1990s and up until FY05, the division was funded almost entirely by dedicated revenue provided by hunting license purchasers and proceeds from the federal Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. Diversification of the funding sources for the division helps staff meet public demands for services.

The PERS retirement contribution increase over the past three years has been met by increased appropriation of General Funds. This funding source is vital for the huge increase built into the FY08 request. The division does not have the ability and flexibility to request and expect sufficient increases to its restricted revenue sources (federal, Fish and Game funds) to meet this funding need.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

The division expects to maintain service delivery for FY08 provided the PERS contribution increase is addressed through General Funds for all four components and game management funding added as "Investment Loss Trust Fund" in FY07 is maintained in the budget as General Funds.

The Hunter Education Public Shooting Range component is moved from its own RDU to the Wildlife Conservation RDU for FY08.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2006

Conducted wildlife survey and inventory management projects for 11 big game species (black and brown bears, bison, caribou, Dall sheep, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, muskox, and wolf) as well as furbearers and migratory birds across 26 game management units and sub-units. Conducted coordination and support projects including biometrics and geographic information systems (GIS) support for research and management projects, a habitat enhancement project, and wildlife and fire management planning projects.

Wildlife research projects through Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration funding conducted during FY06 include 35 related to big game. Of those, 25 are ongoing and 10 were completed during FY06 (Title & Federal Assistance project number are noted as follows). Research on four marine mammals species and three for waterfowl or game birds are also noted. Funding for those efforts comes from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, respectively.

Ongoing Research Projects

Moose

- The Analysis of the Nitrogen Budget of Moose in Unit 13A, Nelchina Basin and in Unit 15, Kenai Peninsula (1.59)
- Nutritional influences on moose reproduction (1.60)
- Evaluation of moose-habitat relationships in Southeastern Alaska (1.61)
- Response of moose and their predators to wolf reduction and short-term bear removal in a portion of Unit 19D (1.62)
- Evaluation and testing of techniques for ungulate management and Moose Research Center operations (1.63)
- Identification of factors affecting calf production, calf, survival, and survival of female adult moose in Unit 13 (1.64)
- Age specific natural mortality rates of male vs. female moose (1.65)

Deer

- Habitat use and survivorship of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska (2.13)

Caribou

- Population Dynamics of Interior and Southwest Alaska Caribou Herds (3.45)
- Monitoring of Fortymile Ungulates and Wolves Following Wolf Sterilization and Translocation (3.48)
- Developing methods to assess effects of oil field infrastructure on caribou movements, growth, and survival (3.49)

Bear

- Brown bear data analysis and manuscript preparation (4.35)
- Abundance, spatial relationships, and trans-boundary movements of brown bears on the mainland coast of Southeast Alaska (4.36)
- Non-invasive sampling of brown bears (4.37)
- Grizzly bear use of North Slope oilfields

Wildlife Habitat Management

- Identifying and evaluating techniques for wildlife habitat management in Interior Alaska (5.10)

Sheep

- Effects of snowshoe hare population cycles on demography of Dall sheep and their predators (6.14)

Furbearers

- Coarse-Scale Surveys for Wolverine Distribution and Habitat in Interior Alaska (7.21)
- Estimating wolverine and river otter abundance and harvest potential in Southcentral Alaska (7.22)

Wolf

- Population ecology and special dynamics of wolves related to prey availability and human activity in the Nelchina Basin (14.24)
- Evaluating methods to control an infestation by the dog louse in gray wolves (14.25)

Musk Ox

- Distribution, movements, and survival of muskoxen in Northeastern Alaska (16.10)

Techniques, Surveillance, Planning

- Development and Testing of Breakaway Snares (15.12)
- Wildlife Health and Disease Surveillance in Alaska (18.73)
- Region I research planning, design, and support (19.10)

Waterfowl

- Population Structure and Distribution of Steller's Eider (E-4-1)
- Population Status of Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse in Southeast Alaska (E-4-2)
- Satellite Tracking of Tule White-fronted Geese (E-4-3)

Ongoing Projects – Marine Mammals

- Stellar Sea Lion Recovery studies
- Investigations into Harbor Seals in Alaska
- Ice Seal Bio-Monitoring in the Bering and Chukchi Region
- Western Beaufort Sea: Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales

Completed Research Projects

- Population Dynamics of Moose in Alaska: Effects of Nutrition, Predation, and Harvest (1.57)
- Assessing wild land fire impacts on the nutritional performance and distribution of caribou (3.44)
- Effects of oil field development on calf production and survival in the Central Arctic caribou herd (3.46)
- Habitat use, foraging behavior, and nutritional ecology of Nelchina caribou (3.47)
- Habitat Assessment of Potential Wood Bison Relocation Sites in Alaska (9.10)
- Brown bear riparian buffers
- Marten abundance and forest management
- Preparation of a manuscript on estimating predation rates by wolves during winter with periodic sampling (14.23)
- Development of GIS techniques for the collection, modeling, and analyses of wildlife movement data and spatial dynamics in Unit 13 (27.10)
- Kenai brown bears: response to human intrusions at salmon streams (T-1-7)

Public Services

Conducted 248 hunting clinics and classes in approximately 30 communities around the state, certifying 2,977 total students. There were 136 basic hunter education, 93 bowhunter, and 19 muzzleloader classes. We trained 53 volunteer instructors at regional workshops in Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage, the Mat-Su valley, and Kenai Peninsula.

Continued to enhance the division's outreach to schools and community groups, holding wildlife curriculum training for 244 teachers, 88 wildlife-related lectures and workshops, and supporting the work of division managers by better informing the public about wildlife management issues and challenges.

Implemented 5 intensive management programs in an effort to increase ungulate species for human consumption by controlling predators in 6 game management units: 13, 16B, 19A, 19D, 20E, and 12.

Directly served hunters and the public by receiving and responding to an estimated 600–1,400 public contacts on an average daily basis (telephone, email, letters, and walk-ins) from the general public, students, teachers, civic organizations, and media about wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management programs, etc. Estimated total contacts are 120,000–150,000 at 4 regional and 18 area offices.

Drafted and distributed approximately 215 news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and flyers and gave approximately 105 media interviews with information about wildlife safety, hunting, trapping, management, and research to satisfy immediate and ongoing public information needs. Updated other informational materials about hunting areas and wildlife viewing on an "as needed" basis, including hunt area maps and updates reflecting changes made by the Alaska Board of Game; also provided packets containing hunting information to an estimated 6,000 hunters.

State Wildlife Grants (SWG)

Conducted 8 grants consisting of 48 individual projects. Of those, 4 grants are ongoing (44 projects) and 4 (4 projects) were completed during FY06

Ongoing projects related to Nongame

- Walrus Islands conservation planning (T-1-2)
- Partnerships for conservation of nongame species (T-1-6)
- Partnerships for conservation of nongame species 2 (T-1-16)
- Conserving Alaska's biodiversity 2 (T-3-1)

Completed projects

- Marine mammals conservation planning coordination (T-1-19)
- Wolverine Creek planning (T-1-1)
- Conservation of Kenai brown bear populations (T-1-7)
- Conserving Alaska's biodiversity (T-1-8-1)

Continued to develop a division nongame wildlife program and completed preparation of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as required by federal State Wildlife Grant legislation.

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**Wildlife Conservation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals				FY2007 Management Plan				FY2008 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula												
Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula												
Expenditures												
Wildlife Conservation	726.2	9,027.2	7,710.5	17,463.9	1,543.1	9,452.8	10,362.8	21,358.7	4,655.3	9,452.8	9,032.1	23,140.2
WCRP	520.1	2,418.8	0.0	2,938.9	620.4	3,764.0	374.8	4,759.2	780.4	3,764.0	0.0	4,544.4
W.C. Special Projects	75.1	4,959.7	1,509.0	6,543.8	37.8	5,951.5	1,770.1	7,759.4	400.7	5,951.5	1,770.1	8,122.3
Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	176.3	0.0	530.0	706.3
Totals	1,321.4	16,405.7	9,219.5	26,946.6	2,201.3	19,168.3	12,507.7	33,877.3	6,012.7	19,168.3	11,332.2	36,513.2

Wildlife Conservation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	2,201.3	19,168.3	12,507.7	33,877.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Wildlife Conservation	3,007.4	-970.3	-2,059.6	-22.5
-WCRP	120.0	-120.0	0.0	0.0
-W.C. Special Projects	362.9	-256.8	-106.1	0.0
-Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	33.9	0.0	-33.9	0.0
Proposed budget decreases:				
-WCRP	0.0	0.0	-374.8	-374.8
-Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	0.0	0.0	-150.0	-150.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Wildlife Conservation	104.8	970.3	728.9	1,804.0
-WCRP	40.0	120.0	0.0	160.0
-W.C. Special Projects	0.0	256.8	106.1	362.9
-Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	16.3	0.0	33.9	50.2
FY2008 Governor	6,012.7	19,168.3	11,332.2	36,513.2